

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 720
By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ralph Overton, Principal of Dickson County High School, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Overton is one such estimable educator who will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious thirty-seven-year tenure in education, Ralph Overton has not only served Dickson County High School with the utmost acumen and alacrity as its Principal, but he has also been employed as an athletic director, football coach, physical education instructor, and driver's education instructor; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dickson County, Ralph Overton graduated from Charlotte High School in 1964 and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's degree plus 45 hours from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overton began his career in education in 1968 as a teacher of health and physical education in Greeneville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, from 1971 to 1978, Ralph Overton taught at Lebanon High School; he then returned to Dickson County, where he has spent the past 27 years; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to Dickson County, Mr. Overton served as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director of Dickson County High School until 1987 when he was promoted to the position of Principal, in which capacity he served ably and admirably until 1993; and

WHEREAS, from 1993 to 1995, Ralph Overton served as a teacher, coach, and school bus driver before once again assuming the position of Principal of Dickson County High School in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Overton is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator and educator who has worked assiduously to motivate his students and faculty to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overton truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues, faculty, staff, and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Ralph Overton is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife of 36 years, Marcia Elaine Overton; and

WHEREAS, Principal Ralph Overton truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher and administrator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized for his manifold achievements on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Mr. Ralph Overton, Principal of Dickson County High School, commending his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, saluting his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.